
Summer School 2021

Introduction

The school successfully secured funding from the Department for Education (DfE). Summer school ran for two weeks in middle and late August 2021. Over 170 students attended from five different year groups: Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12.

Objectives

A key objective for Year 7 students was to ensure a strong transition from Year 6 into 7; this involved meeting teachers as well as increasing their familiarisation with the school site, especially the workings of the school library. All “disadvantaged” Year 7 students were invited as well as those who were the sole child coming from their primary school.

An array of students in Years 8, 9 and 11 were targeted, especially those who required learning recovery based on internal school data. Key, explicit competencies or soft skills were reinforced throughout the programme.

In Year 12, more able, gifted and talented as well as student leaders were identified to attend a catch-up, community social action projects. This was designed to support future UCAS and / or apprenticeship applications.

Content and delivery

The educational focus varied depending on the age group.

1. Year 7 / 8 and 9: literacy and sports. Literacy activities were based on subjects which, during COVID, have been marginalised due to health and safety; these included:
 - Design and technology / practical science: designing and building rockets
 - Performing arts: designing short drama pieces based on the foundation work in English on fairy tales.
 - Geography: exploring fieldwork and conducting orienteering
2. Year 11 and 12: leadership and local social action projects.

Partnership working

1. For three days Year 7 / 8 and 9 students worked with The Army as well as the Reptile Zoo. These students also visited Osterley Park in order to participate in kayaking and mountain biking.
2. Year 11 and 12 students worked with local charities and “not for profit” organisations such as Brentford Football Club Community Sports Trust (BFCCST).

Impact and feedback

1. Parent / carer feedback included:

'I am pleased he went in confidently and came out fulfilled and happy. The experience will really enable him to hit the ground running next week, and get over some of the first week pitfalls. Thank you to all who provided their time into this worthwhile initiative'.

'We were astounded by the care and attention to detail. The range and scope of activities provided was outstanding. We couldn't be happier or more confident about the choice of school we have made for our son'.

'I thought the whole familiarisation of the school through the orienteering exercise was an excellent idea, and really helped my son come away from Summer School feeling that he had a much better grip on how to get around the school, that was a big bonus for a new "Big" school before the other year groups come'.